

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Sverdlovsk Oblast)
SUBJECT Tank and Rail Car Works at Mzhni Tagil

PLACE
ACQUIRED

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History

2. The works was formerly a foundry which was enlarged during the war and switched over to war production. During hostilities the works produced armored cars and tanks of all sizes. Tanks produced include a very small fully tracked tank which is very maneuverable and has a crew of two, T-34 tanks, tanks somewhat similar to but larger than the T-34, and a very heavy low tank which carries a crew of more than seven men (sic) and is equipped with a gun, three machine guns, and a T/T set.

Present production

3. During the first half of 1948, the plant switched over to peace-time pro-
duction and is now producing chiefly open freight cars and to a lesser extent tanks. Open freight cars which are of 60 tons' capacity are used for transporting coal and ore from mines.

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Power

4. The plant has its own electric power station.

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Shifts

5. Work is carried on without interruption in three shifts.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Personnel

7. Name of the manager is not known. There are about 40,000 workers including about 10,000 Russian convicts. In the middle of 1948 about 1,500 German PWs were employed, who were gradually replaced by Russian convicts. In April 1950 all German PWs had been replaced.

Raw Materials

8. Coal and ore were obtained from nearby mines and, it was rumored, also from mines in the Karpinsk area. The works is said to own 23 mines.

Security

9. The works are partly, and possibly entirely, surrounded by a barbed wire fence. There are watch-towers. There are both a works guard and a military guard. The latter is said to belong to the MVD.

Details of works

10. The works are approximately six to seven kms long and two kms wide. It contains a rolling mill which is situated along the river bank about 1 km from the southern end of the works. In the southern sector of the works there are four blast furnaces 20 to 25 metres high, and further north smelting works, Martin furnaces, and two foundries. Further still to the north are workshops, most of which are housed in large one-and two-storied buildings. The electric power station is said to be situated in the northern sector of the works. The works are well supplied with railway sidings.

Comment: Previous reports indicate that the factory discussed here is the Ural Rail Car Works.

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